IN THE CLAIMS:

1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (NEW) A method of filtering a collection of samples, a sample being associated with an auxiliary data item, the method comprising the steps of:

distinguishing between valid samples and non-valid samples of the collection of samples on the basis of the associated auxiliary data item, wherein valid samples belong to one or more video objects and non-valid samples do not, and

computing a filtered value of a valid sample on the basis of a weighted combination of a set of values which are derived from input values of valid samples.

7. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a step of calculating a padding value on the basis of input values of valid samples, and wherein the computing step is adapted to compute a filtered value of a valid sample on the basis of a weighted combination of values of a cluster of samples including the input value of each valid sample in the cluster and the padding value for each non-valid sample in the cluster.

N:\UserPublic\GR\PHF\99513_amd_8-2004.doc

2

8. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the padding value is calculated on the basis of the valid samples in the cluster.

9. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cluster of samples is fixed in size.

10. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the samples are texture data and the auxiliary data are shape data.

11. (NEW) A filter arrangement for filtering a collection of samples, said filter arrangement being configured to receive said samples and auxiliary data items associated with said samples, comprises:

a multiplexing circuit for distinguishing between valid samples and non-valid samples of the collection of samples on the basis of the associated auxiliary data item, wherein valid samples belong to one or more video objects and non-valid samples do not, and

a filtering circuit for computing a filtered value of a valid sample on the basis of a weighted combination of a set of values which are derived from input values of valid samples.

12. (NEW) The filter arrangement as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a padding value calculator circuit for

calculating a padding value on the basis of input values of valid samples, and wherein the filtering circuit is configured to compute a filtered value of a valid sample on the basis of a weighted combination of values of a cluster of samples including the input value of each valid sample in the cluster and the padding value for each non-valid sample in the cluster.